

# THE NORTH DELTA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO FLOOD IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE FRANKLIN POND-BEACH /STONE LAKE/POINT PLEASANT AREA

## FRANKLIN POND

The Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers did not flood north of Desmond Road under natural 1850 un-leveed conditions. Levees constructed to protect low lying downstream Swamp and Overflow land now create backwater which flood the upstream area creating what is now called the Franklin Pond. The record stage of 19.31' msl experienced in the Franklin Pond area in 1997 could not occur had it not been for the initial levee projects combined with improvements after the 1986 flood. Even with downstream levees the great flood of March 1907 only recorded of peak stage at Bensons Ferry of 13.9' msl.

## POINT PLEASANT

The Point Pleasant area also was not in the floodplain under natural conditions. Historically, the entire watershed on the east side of the Sacramento River from the City of Sacramento to Lambert Road drained to the Sacramento River. The area now designated Point Pleasant did not flood nor was it designated Swamp or Overflow lands. This changed with the construction of Swampland District 2's levees after 1861. Swampland District 2 encompassed the Swamp and Overflow lands on the east bank of the Sacramento River from the American River to the Mokelumne River. To drain the area after Swampland District 2's Sacramento River levee was constructed a canal was dug by Sacramento County from the City of Sacramento to Snodgrass Slough. This canal was designated the Sacramento Drainage Canal and was completed in 1870. Recognizing the backwater potential, the State Statue authorizing its construction states that levees and floodgates shall be constructed to prevent backwater from entering the upstream area. This canal, with slight modifications, is still the primary drainage facility for the entire Morrison Creek watershed.

The flooding that now occurs in the Point Pleasant area is a direct result of downstream swampland reclamation combined with upstream urbanization. Levees constructed to protect the low-lying swampland areas displace floodwaters to the un-leveed Point Pleasant area. The inability of the diversion canal to contain and convey upstream drainage and the inability of the Lambert Road floodgates to prevent downstream backwater from entering the upstream area is the major contributing factor.

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Throughout the history of reclamation, the State of California has participated by either legislating, funding or constructing levee projects. Many of these State supported projects negatively impact the Franklin Pond/ Point Pleasant areas. Mitigation of impacts has not been required.

What is the State of California's present role as related to this flood problem? I believe the State of California, the County of Sacramento and the local landowners would all benefit if the State and County were to combine their individual projects and work together to resolve this flood problem before it is forced to litigation.

Thank you,  
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